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Senate Group Approves Bush as the CIA Director

Washington, Dec. 18 (News Bureau) — The Senate Armed Services Committee voted 12 to 4 today to approve George Bush as director of the Central Intelligence Agency after President Ford assured the committee in writing that he had ruled Bush out as a possible 1976 vice presidential running mate.

Ssn. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), a Democratic presidential candidate, said that Ford's letter to the committee's chairman, Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), was the "decisive factor" in the vote. "There would have been eight votes against Mr. Bush and the nomination would not have been reported" without the letter, Jackson said.

Four Democrats voted against the nomination: Sens. Thomas McIntyre (N. H.), John Culver (Iowa), Gary Hart (Colo.), and Patrick J. Leahy (Vt.).

Stennis said that he did not believe that the full Senate would vote on the Bush nomination until Jan. 19, when Congress returns from the Christmas recess, which is scheduled to begin tomorrow.

In his letter to Stennis, Ford said that Bush had urged him to withdraw his name as a possible veep candidate. "Ambassador

Bush and I agree that the nation's immediate foreign intelligence needs must take precedence over other considerations," Ford said.

Last month, Ford told a press conference that neither Bush nor Donald H. Rumsfeld, whom he named defense secretary, should be eliminated from consideration from the vice presidential spot. During two days of hearings before the Armed Services Committee Bush repeatedly refused to rule out the possibility that he accept the vice presidential nomination if asked.

But as the hearings progressed it became clear that unless Bush and Ford backed down, the nomination would be lost. This left Ford with the choice of either withdrawing the nomination or ruling out Bush as a running mate.



George Bush
Ruled out for VP spot